

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Organization of the W.O.P.
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**SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Since Rokossovski assumed military control in Poland there has been a progressively more rapid trend toward militarization of many formerly non-military or para-military groups. Little or no attempt is made to hide the fact that Soviet officers are being placed in all key positions. Formerly, Soviet officers adopted Polish-sounding names. More recent arrivals have retained their Russian names. They speak some Polish and it is apparent that they are being trained for permanent service in Poland. The influx of Soviet officers has been noted in the W.O.P.
2. The W.O.P. is concentrated most heavily on the western borders in Poland and along the coastline. All brigade commanders are carefully checked by the Russians. The Polish officers who are retained or appointed must pass a special training course in Russia. The replacement of Polish officers by Russians is now being instituted at battalion level.
3. W.O.P. headquarters is in Warsaw. The former commander of W.O.P. was a Soviet general, Guidon Czerwinski, who was recalled to Russia and who has since died. He was replaced by the incumbent, Colonel Gutakiel, a Russian Jew and an ardent Communist. The chief Political Officer of the W.O.P. is Lieutenant Colonel Wladyslaw Mroz, a former Polish laborer and a Communist for many years. The strength of the W.O.P. has been increased from eleven to thirteen brigades and it is reported that the tendency is to strengthen the W.O.P. as well as other similar groups.
4. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th W.O.P. Brigades are located as follows:
 - a. 3rd Brigade, commanded by Col. Antoni Bochan, is located at Szczecin (Stettin)
 - b. 4th Brigade, commanded by Lt. Col. Tomasz Hejdukiewicz, is at Gdansk-Wrzeszcz (Danzig-Gangfuhr). The coastal boundary between the brigades at Szczecin and Gdansk is at Ustka (Stolomünde), which is wholly under the jurisdiction of the brigade at Gdansk.
 - c. 5th "Mazurska" Brigade, commanded by Lt. Col. Horakik, is stationed at Olsztyn-Bartoszyce (Allenstein-Bartenstein) in East Prussia.

CLASSIFICATION

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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The soldiers of the W.O.P. are equipped with infantry rifles, machine guns, automatic rifles, pistols and hand grenades.

5. Each brigade consists of about 2500-3000 men and is organized as follows:
 - a. The Command (Komenda) may comprise as many as 15 command units, depending on the extent of the sector being guarded. Each command unit consists of 180 - 200 men.
 - b. The command unit is divided into five to seven watch-sections (Straznica). The number of watch-sections varies according to the size and importance of the sector being guarded.
 - c. Each watch-section has two or three outposts (Placowka).
6. Foreign navigation will shortly be prohibited along the entire sector of the Polish coast between Kolobrzeg (Kolberg) and the island of Wolin (Wollin). Polish coastal shipping will also be limited. Officially there is said to be located in this section a central base for all Polish fishing units, but actually the authorities permit neither foreigners nor Poles to observe what goes on in the numerous ex-German military camps in the area. It is reported that in this sector the Russians are experimenting with new weapons and new military units, such as the parachutists. Parachutists took part in the military parade at Warsaw on 1 May, together with landing troops and special artillery. Various troops are stationed in this area, and new launching sites for rocket weapons are located here.
7. In the Kolobrzeg harbor itself, fast motorboats have replaced Polish fishing units. These motorboats belong to the Soviet navy base on Rugen and are manned by Soviet crews.

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